

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 /107 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:DLRANARD:LM

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

EA/ANP - LJMOSER

----- 005599

R 301850Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KN, KS

SAIGON FOR INGERSOLL

TOKYO FOR SNEIDER

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

1. MICHAEL POWLES, COUNSELOR NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY, CAME IN TO DEPARTMENT JANUARY 29 TO TALK TO RANARD (EA/K) ABOUT KOREAN AFFAIRS, DURING WHICH HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR U.S. VIEWS ON PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. HE EXPLAINED THAT ROKG HAD APPEALED TO WELLINGTON TO PERSUADE CANBERRA NOT TO PROCEED WITH RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH, AND THAT NEW ZEALAND HAD RESPONDED WITH A LOW KEY REPRESENTATION TO THE AUSTRALIANS.

2. RANARD SUMMARIZED ARGUMENTS AGAINST RECOGNITION WE HAD USED WITH AUSTRALIANS, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR NEGATIVE
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IMPACT ON ROK'S INTERESTS AND ON BILATERAL SOUTH/NORTH

TALKS. POWLES STATED THAT, WHILE KIRK WAS HARDLY UNDER SAME PRESSURE FROM THE LEFT AS WAS WHITLAM, AND THERE WAS NO URGENCY IN MOVING DOWN SAME PATH, HE BELIEVED IT ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, PERHAPS THREE TO SIX MONTHS, BEFORE NEW ZEALAND WOULD FOLLOW SUIT. NEW ZEALAND HAD NO SPECIAL INTEREST IN NORTH KOREA, BUT KIRK WAS COMMITTED TO UNIVERSALITY AND BELIEVED DIALOGUE WITH THE OTHER SIDE NECESSARY TO DETENTE.

3. RANARD URGED THAT NEW ZEALAND BIDE ITS TIME AND LET THE DUST SETTLE BEFORE MAKING ANY MOVES TOWARD NORTH. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF TIMING, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE ROKG HAS JUST MADE CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL TO NORTH FOR NONAGGRESSION PACT, AND ALSO BECAUSE PARK NOW FACING INTERNAL PROBLEMS. RANARD WENT ON TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT IF AND WHEN NEW ZEALAND DECIDED TO APPROACH NORTH KOREANS SHE WOULD COUPLE IT WITH REQUIREMENT FOR RECIPROCAL ACTION BY OTHER SIDE. WHILE ADMITTEDLY THIS HAS BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE EFFORT SO FAR, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT FRIENDS OF ROK ARE GENUINELY ATTEMPTING TO STABILIZE THE PENINSULA, AND THAT FRIENDS OF NORTH SHOULD PROVIDE SOME SIGN THEY SIMILARLY INTERESTED. FINALLY, RANARD REQUESTED THAT NEW ZEALAND KEEP US INFORMED CONCERNING HER INTENTIONS, POINTING OUT THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO OUR PLANNING AS WE MOVE TOWARD UN THIS FALL. POWLES SAID HE WOULD PASS REQUEST ON TO WELLINGTON, AND FELT CERTAIN HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THIS MATTER.

4. STATE 14194 OUTLINING REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY SNEIDER TO AUSTRALIANS BEING PASSED TO YOU FOR YOUR USE AS APPROPRIATE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. KISSINGER

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